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From the Editor's Desk

With this edition we begin the 41st volume of the NI Bulletin. In it we have some interesting articles which I hope you will enjoy reading. My thanks to all the contributors. We are reinstituting awards for best article of the year; details may be found beginning on page 21. In a small way I hope this will encourage you to share your numismatic knowledge now and for posterity by setting your work in print. You may be surprised how many people are interested in what you have to share.

I wish to thank Chris Carson for his help with the Bulletin; he has been proofreading it for me, thus sparing you from many errors which would otherwise have come your way. Even with his help I somehow manage to put some typographical errors back in during my final edits; as always, we appreciate your forbearance and support.

Herman Blanton

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In Memoriam: Warren Davis, 79

Numismatics International lost a long-time member with the passing of Warren Davis, NI #1103, on September 10, 2005. I first met Warren forty years ago at a meeting of the Gold Coast Coin Club in Hollywood, Florida. My membership number is R875 and Warren's was R933. He was always at the monthly meetings for many years, until he became unable to drive at night. But until the very end, just a week before his passing, he had his usual two tables with his friend Jav Blake at the Hollywood Monthly Show. He was a faithful dealer at all the Hollywood Coin Shows, displaying and selling both high-end foreign paper money and more popular notes. He had a loyal following. Warren always had one case of world crowns, but in recent years I do not remember him selling any coins. He just liked to put them out. A dozen or more years ago, Warren donated a quantity of world crowns to his local club to be given out as door prizes. If he couldn't sell them, it was just like Warren to give them away.

Warren Davis worked for the United States Postal Service, until his retirement better than a dozen years ago. That was about the time he switched from coins to paper money. I remember him telling me "They do not weigh so much. Easier to carry".

I know he read the NI Bulletin from cover to cover, as he would comment each time that the bulletin carried one of my articles. NI and Gold Coast Coin Club members have lost a good friend. He will long be remembered in numismatic circles. Warren is survived by a younger brother, and a daughter and son-in-law.

Submitted by Roger deWardt Lane

NI

America's First Silver Dollar - The Piece of Eight

Joel Anderson NI #433 (www.joelscoins.com)

(Submitted by Elmore Scott with permission from author)

Few coins can match the history and romance of the Piece-of-Eight. Commonly known as the Spanish 8 Reales, or Spanish Milled Dollar, this large silver coin was widely used throughout the America's and the Orient. Its wide acceptance made it a favorite of both pirates and merchants. It was used throughout the colonies before the American Revolution, and was the basis of the United States Dollar. The coin continued to be legal tender in the United States until 1857. When used in the Orient, Chinese merchants would often stamp the coin with their "chops" thus guaranteeing the coin as genuine. The more chops a coin had, the more widely accepted it was. The coins were minted in Mexico City and other Spanish colonial mints in the Americas from silver the natives were forced to mine. The coins bear the bust of Charles III, Charles IV or Ferdinand VII on the obverse and Coat-of-Arms of Spain, featuring the Pillars of Hercules and the royal crown, on the reverse.



Charles III



Charles IV



Ferdinand VII



Reverse

The coins of Charles III date from the period 1773 to 1788. Charles was an "enlightened despot" whose reforms helped lead a brief cultural and economic revival of the Spanish Empire. He also provided covert assistance to the young United States in an effort to embarrass his rivals, the British.

Upon his death, his son Charles IV assumed the throne of the Spanish Empire. His reign was a disaster. Napoleon's Army occupied Spain. In 1808 Charles was forced to abdicate when he attempted to flee the country; his son Ferdinand VII then assumed the throne.

Ferdinand was soon captured by French forces and spent the first five years of his reign in French prisons. That did not stop the Spanish American colonies from issuing coins for him, however. At the same time the colonies began their quest for independence. Upon returning to Spain in 1814, Ferdinand attempted to reestablish a conservative absolute monarchy, which alienated potential supporters in Spain and further fueled the independence movements in the Colonies. By 1826 most of the Spanish possessions in America were independent. Their reigns were:

Charles III 1759-1788, Charles IV 1788-1808, Ferdinand VII 1808, 1813-1833

NI

Extract from "Exit from Burma"
A War-time Journey from Rangoon to Simla
Gerald Bourne
Indian Civil Servant
Submitted by Clyde Hubbard NI #1260

Clyde Hubbard received an unpublished manuscript from Mrs. Ursula Bourne, widow of the author. This is an extract from that manuscript, a war journal of events which took place in Burma during the Second World War. The country's name at the time was Burma and the US government still uses the name Burma, though the military government in that country today uses the name Myanmar. The story told here uses place names as they were known at the time; the author took extra care to include a special section on naming, at the beginning of his manuscript, which we include. With the exception of a very few typographical corrections the extraction is verbatim from the manuscript. Please note that any names considered disparaging should be kept in context of the place and time of the narrative. The "Queen Mary" referred to in the extract was a large Buick automobile. A copy of the whole manuscript (2 + 47 pp) will be sent to the NI Library, to be made available to members per library procedures.

The events in this extract take place in 1942, principally in Shwebo and Kyaukmyaung, about 17 miles apart.

Place Names (from the Introduction)

I have written Burmese place names as they are spelt on maps, rather than as they are pronounced. Pronunciation is not difficult if one remembers that the accent is almost invariably on the final syllable, beginning with a consonant—there are no true terminal consonants in the spoken language—and that final e is pronounced like the French e with an acute accent—spelt ay in the more familiar Mandalay. Thus: Magwe (Ma-gway), Shwebo (Shwe-boe), Katha (Ka-thā), Bhamo (Bha-moe), Male (Ma-lay), Pinbon (Pin-bone), Tonhe (Tone-hay), and finally, the most difficult, Myitkyina (Myit-tchi-nā) — not, as it was sometimes called in the brief period of its prominence in the news, My-it-ky-eena.

(The Extracted Text)

News of the withdrawal was brought to us by Hughes, the liason officer, who told us that the army was retreating north-west, across the Chindwin river and through a place called Tamu to Imphal in the Indian State of Manipur; and civilians were advised to take the same route. But Jim Lindop had other ideas.

I had known Jim since my first year in Burma, when he was a Land Settlement Officer and I had been attached to him for some weeks for training. He had entered the Indian Civil Service after the 1914–18 War, in which he had won a Military Cross. He was essentially an outdoor man, with a scorn of "Secretariat—wallahs"; and I

used to find it difficult to keep up with him as he strode about the fields in the course of his duties, which were to record and classify agricultural land for the purpose of assessment to Land Revenue. Where we were, in the northern part of the country, there were no roads, but the metre-gauge railway to Myitkyina ran through it and afforded by its bridges a means of crossing the rivers. The bridges were open, mere skeletons, and one walked on the sleepers (*cross ties in American usage—ed.*), usually with awkward stepping up and down at the ends; I was fascinated by the way the Burmese women negotiated these, stepping gracefully, with bundles balanced on their heads. Trains on this part of the railway were few and traveled slowly, for fear of elephants on the line. Track maintenance was minimal and sleepers were frequently broken or loose; on one occasion Jim picked up a sleeper and sent it to the Agent of the Burma Railways in Rangoon, with a note telling him where he had found it.

Now, as Commissioner, he felt responsible for winding up the administration in the northern districts of the country before they were abandoned, the most important task being to destroy the money in the Treasuries. So he planned that after dealing with Shwebo he would go to Katha, a District Headquarters on the Irrawaddy about a hundred miles to the north, then up the river to Bhamo, near the China frontier, and finally to Myitkyina, from where the air-lift to India was believed to be still operating. He said, in his usual blunt way, that he had no staff, not even a chuprassi, so would I like to go with him, as general dogsbody. I accepted with pleasure.

In Shwebo there was not only the District Treasury, but also a Reserve Treasury for the country as a whole, containing currency belonging to the Government of India — Burma having been a Province of India until separated in 1935. It was important not only that the money should be destroyed, to prevent it falling into the hands of the Japs, but also that an account should be kept of it — particularly that which belonged to the Government of India, for which otherwise the Government of Burma would be liable.

The keys of the Treasury were obtained from the Deputy Commissioner, in his village retreat. Destroying the currency notes, by burning them in an incinerator, took two days — perhaps I should say two afternoons, as the town was avoided in the mornings because that was the time that the Japs usually chose for their raids.

The wisdom of this was soon shown. I was at "home" in the morning when I received a message that a young colleague on the other side of the town, about to set off on the route through Tamu, could not get his car to start. I went off in the Morris, through the town, and found him just as the car started and off he went. On the way back through the town, near the District Office and Treasury, I saw a friend from the Forest Service who had joined the Army, and stopped to talk. As we were talking we heard Jap planes approaching. He ran off to the slit trench at the District Office and, as I was sitting in the car and the planes were approaching from behind me, I drove off at full speed out of the town. I was coming to a cross-roads on the outskirts when a Chinese soldier stepped out, pointing a pistol at me and signaling me to stop. I pulled up, but he then pointed up into the air and I realised that he was warning me of the planes. Having heard that in China, at least in Kunming, anyone who did not take cover on the sounding of an air raid alarm was liable to be shot, I was not altogether happy; but at that moment a British Army fuel tanker truck passed me at high speed,

so I quickly followed. I heard bombs and looking in my mirror saw a succession of explosions along the road behind me. At the same moment I saw there was a culvert under the road and I was soon to find it occupied by another Chinese soldier. But that was the end of the raid and, looking out, I saw the planes wheeling away. Ignoring Chinese protests, I emerged to find the car standing in the middle of the road with the door open and the engine running.

On the second afternoon of the burning of the notes I was assisted by Ka Si, a Burman member of the I.C.S. who had been Deputy Commissioner at Sagaing when I was District and Sessions Judge there, and who was later Burmese Ambassador in London. He was doing the stoking while I brought the fuel from the Treasury. Then I brought one lot of notes to him he said he had been unable to prevent two British soldiers taking away some of the money. They were in a car nearby, so I ran to stop them. They admitted they had taken some of the notes, saying they needed money as they had become separated from their unit and had had no pay for some time; and asked why I was destroying the money anyway. I felt that this was no occasion for a lengthy explanation of the reasons for denying to the enemy the currency of the country they were occupying, so merely said I was destroying it as had been ordered, which I thought they might more easily understand. Their story was hardly credible, for as they had a car — a civilian one, which they must have picked up somewhere — and could get into the town, they should have been able to get to Army headquarters, which was not far away. But clearly it was of no use arguing, so I asked them to show me what they had taken. They produced a pathetic bundle of one rupee notes — the rupee being then worth one shilling and sixpence. As the continued existence in the country of this sum of money was unlikely to give much aid and comfort to the enemy I said no more, and they drove off.

The currency notes being disposed of, it was decided that the silver coins should be thrown into the Irrawaddy river, which was only a few miles at a place called Kyaukmyaung. The problem was transport. We felt that even the Queen Mary was not equal to the task. The problem was solved by the discovery of the Police "Black Maria" van. This, with its load of silver instead of prisoners, I drove off to Kyaukmyaung early in the morning of the first of May. On the way I had to go along the road on which I had been chased by bombs. The embanked road was pitted with craters, so I had to make some perilous descents into the compounds of houses by the side of the road, but the great weight on the floor of the van prevented us from turning over, and the only damage was part of the roof scraped off on a tree. Kyaukmyaung was the river port for Shwebo and there was a jetty which the Irrawaddy steamers tied up. The boxes of coins were carried to the end of the jetty and consigned to the flowing waters, soon, it was hoped, to be buried in the silt, beyond chance of recovery. It took two trips to dispose of it all. I wish I could remember, or had kept a note of, the total sum of money that was destroyed; but I do remember that it was considerable.

This matter disposed of, we decided that it was time to move on to Katha.

NI

Philip I Celebrates the 1000th Anniversary of Rome

April 21, 247 – 248

Jim Shaffer – <http://ettuantiquities.com>



Marcus Iulius Philippus was born near Damascus in about AD 204. He married Marcia Otacilia Severa, and their son Philip II was born in 237. Philip was Praetorian Praefect when Gordian III mysteriously died in 244 on the Sassanian campaign. He was acclaimed Augustus, made a quick peace, and returned to Rome. He ruled benevolently, engaged in a Danube campaign, and celebrated the 1,000th anniversary of Rome in 248. In 249 the commander in the Danubian region, Decius, was hailed as Augustus by his men. Philip marched north, but was killed in the battle of Verona in August, 249.

The following coins were minted during the reign of Philip I to celebrate the thousandth anniversary of the founding of Rome. Tom Schroer, in his *Moneta* software, writes that the traditional founding of Rome was April 21, 753 BC, which put the 1,000th anniversary in 248 since there was no year 'zero' (by our reckoning - the Romans reckoned 'ab urbe condita,' from the founding of the city). The event was celebrated lavishly as the opening of a new age, hence the associated games were known as the 'Saecular Games' even though properly the next Saecular Games would not have been held until 314. Since by then the empire was being Christianized the games in 248 are the last 'Saecular Games' known to have been held. The festivities were spectacular, with another donative to the people of Rome, and thousands of men and beasts meeting their doom in gladiatorial contests.

According to the calculations of Varro, the 1000th year of Rome ran from April 21st, 247 to 248. However, according to *Roman Imperial Coinage* (volume IV, part III), there clearly was little issue of these celebratory coins until late 247. Philip exhibited and slaughtered huge numbers of exotic animals for the enjoyment of the populace. The group of coins below are examples of the coinage issued during the celebrations. The illustrated coins are antoniniani, approximately 22-25 mm diameter. Antoninianus is the modern name of the silver coin introduced by Caracalla at the end of 214 (its proper ancient name is unknown). Although it weighed only about 50% more than a denarius, the financially distressed government tariffed it at two denarii, which led to the disappearance of denarii about thirty years later.

The coins illustrated here have obverse designs of Philip, his wife Otacilia Severa and their son Philip II.



Officina: 1

Coin Weight: 4.56 grams. Die Axis: 15 degrees.

Obverse: Philip I, radiate bust right. IMP PHILIPPVS AVG.

Reverse: Lion walking right. SAECVLARES AVGG. In exergue the officina (workshop) number I.



Officina: 2

Coin Weight: 5.13 grams. Die Axis: 345 degrees.

Obverse: Philip I, radiate bust right. IMP PHILIPPVS AVG.

Reverse: She-wolf left with Romulus and Remus. SAECVLARES AVGG. In exergue the officina number II.



Officina: 3

Coin Weight: 4.25 grams. Die Axis: 0 degrees.

Obverse: Philip II, radiate bust right. IMP PHILIPPVS AVG.

Reverse: Goat or moose walking left. SAECVLARES AVGG. In exergue the officina number III.



Officina: 4

Coin Weight: 4.22 grams. Die Axis: 15 degrees.

Obverse: Otacilia, bust right. OTACIL SEVERA AVG.

Reverse: Hippopotamus walking right. SAECVLARES AVGG. In exergue the officina number III.



Officina: 5

Coin Weight: 3.94 grams. Die Axis: 210 degrees.

Obverse: Philip I radiate bust right. IMP PHILIPPVS AVG.

Reverse: Stag walking right. SAECULARES AVGG. In exergue the officina number V (U).



Officina: 6

Coin Weight: 3.80 grams. Die Axis: 345 degrees.

Obverse: Philip I radiate bust right. IMP PHILIPPVS AVG.

Reverse: Stag or antelope walking right. SAECULARES AVGG. In exergue the officina number VI (UI).

A second group of coins is believed to have been issued to keep the memory of the games alive and to look to the future of Rome. Below we present two varieties to represent these coins.



Mint: Rome. Weight: 3.62 grams. Die axis: 15 degrees.
 Obverse: Philip I radiate bust right. IMP PHILIPPVS AVG.
 Reverse: Cippus inscribed COS III. Legend around, SAECULARES AVGG.



Mint: Antioch. Weight: 3.31 grams. Die axis: 195 degrees.
 Obverse: Philip I radiate bust left. IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG.
 Reverse: Temple of six columns, statue (of Roma) in center. SAECVLVM NOVVM.

Philip produced coins from six officinae in Rome. On this series, they were identified by the number in the exergue. I, II, V & VI were used to produce Philip I coins while III was dedicated to Philip II and IIII produced only Otacilia coins. There is another series of coins issued at about the same time that uses Greek letters in the reverse field to signify the officina. Again, "A", "B", "C", & "ς" were for Philip I while "Γ" was reserved for Philip II and "Δ" for Otacilia.

NI

Personalities on Coins of African and Asian Cultures
Egypt's Om Kalsoum
Howard Ford NI #LM90

Below we show an Egyptian 5 Pound gold coin dated 1396-1976 with a portrait of Om Kalsoum or Umm Kalsoum.



It is unusual to find portraits of women on coins from Africa and Asia except for those women who were rulers, such as Cleopatra and Nefertiti, who appear on other modern Egyptian coins, so Om Kalsoum was receiving a singular honor.

She was an entertainer, a vocalist. Her voice evidently had an incredible range, from very deep and low to high soprano. It was a voice so strong that she could perform before large audiences without the aid of a microphone. She was also a radio personality, having a weekly show in which she sang her famous songs, some in the language of the streets, some in a classical Arabic which much of her audience did not understand, though they understood enough to weep over her persistent themes of unhappy love, of the difficulties of human relationships and of the bonds between parent and child. We are told that politicians would schedule their radio talks for the time spot before Om's program; that way they would be assured of a large audience. She was an extremely popular artist in Egypt and other Arabic-speaking countries.

Born very poor, she first attracted attention by reciting and singing verses from the Koran. To do this, she had to dress as a boy because females were not allowed to recite from the Koran in public. From those beginnings she rose to become the most famous chanteuse in the Arab world.

The coin is KM461. The design also appears on a silver 1 Pound, KM455. Om had died in 1975, so these commemorative coins recognize her passing.

Note: Image not actual size.

NI

Personalities on Coins of Africa and Asia
Kemal Ataturk of Turkey
Howard Ford NI #LM90

When Kemal Ataturk was born in 1881, he was given the name Mustafa. That was all; the Turks did not use family names at that time. When he went to school, he was so brilliant in mathematics that the word for perfection, "Kemal," was given to him as a name. Later, he entered the military and joined the Young Turks, a liberal group of officers who wanted to establish a constitution for Turkey, and who were successful in forcing Sultan Abdul Hamid ("the Assassin") off his throne, although he was just replaced by his brother Mehmet V, and the Sultanate continued. Ataturk then went to Libya to fight against Italy in the Italo-Turkish War of 1910-12, fought in the Balkan Wars of 1912-13, and rose rapidly in the army to become a very high-ranking officer (<http://www.infoplease.com>).

During World War I, when Winston Churchill designed the landing at Gallipoli in Thrace, the British troops were facing defenses planned by a Turkish commander who is known variously in the histories as Kemal Pasha or Mustafa Bey. This officer, a lieutenant-colonel at the time rather than a pasha (general), would later be known as Kemal Ataturk. The campaign at Gallipoli caused the deaths of many of the troops from Australia and New Zealand who carried out the landings. I have been told that Kemal wrote letters to all of the families of the ANZAC troops who died in the disastrous campaign. If true, that seems a most remarkable thing for a commander to do for the mothers and fathers of his enemies. However, the story, for all of its attractiveness, is probably not true: there is some confusion on this point because at the unveiling of a War Memorial for the Gallipoli campaign, Ataturk addressed the families of the young men who died there. He said that the Turkish people make no difference between ANZAC Johnny and Turkish Mehmet: all of the dead young men are loved equally by the Turks; all are sleeping in the bosom of a friendly country; all of them are now our sons (<http://www.gg.govt.nz>). Churchill complimented Kemal very highly: I do not have the exact quote, but it was something to the effect that the Pasha had the kind of brilliance that came along only once in hundreds of years.

World War I did not end warfare for Turkey. Ataturk had to fight Greece in the Greco-Turkish War from 1920-1922 while trying to plan the conversion of Turkey into a republic. The Turkish sultan, Mehmet VI, who had succeeded to the throne upon the death of his brother in 1918, tried to get rid of Kemal, but instead it was Kemal who triumphed, setting up a government in Ankara, abolishing the Sultanate in 1922, thus forcing the sultan off his throne and into exile, and then establishing the Republic of Turkey in 1923. Ataturk was the first President of the Republic and initiated many beneficial changes. He created a new legal system, gave women rights, and decreed that the Western alphabet and numbering system would be used. Very wisely, he separated Church and State: he abolished the Caliphate, the religious authority of Ottoman Islam, and told the Moslem clergy that their field was religion, not politics, and that they had best stick to their field. If he was to have to face opposition to his reforms, it at least would not come from fanatical clerics. (We would, of course, have a very different Middle East in our time if leaders in other Islamic countries had done what Ataturk did.) However, he allowed only one political party, his own, of course. In truth, he was a dictator, but one who governed, for the

most part, wisely and well. Ataturk died in 1938, being succeeded as president by his prime minister and long-time colleague, Ismet Inonu.

In 1934 he had required all Turks to take a second name. The National Assembly gave him the name "Ataturk," from "Ata" meaning "father" and Turk," meaning "of the Turks." Now, over 60 years after his death, the Turks still look upon him with great veneration; he is still the "father of the Turks" (<http://searchearthlink.net>).

We show two coins of Ataturk. Each is 500 Piastres or 500 Kurush, weighing a little over one ounce of gold. The one which is more ornate in design is referred to as the Ataturk Deluxe, KM874. The arabesque pattern at the center of one side spells out the name of the country, with the date, 1962 in this case, appearing just below it. We have to look very closely to see the date: the first two digits are separated from the last two by part of the script from above. The coin was a posthumous issue, made from 1942 to 1980. The design appears on four smaller coins, 25, 50, 100, and 250 Kurush, with KM numbers 870 through 873.



Turkey 500 Piastres 1962, diameter 45mm
Image Courtesy of www.novamarketing.ch

The other design is called the Ataturk Standard or Ataturk Regular, KM859. The date of 1923 is not the date in which the coin was minted: it is the date in which the Republic was born. To ascertain the actual mintage date, we add to 1923 the number appearing below it, in this case 46. This specimen was minted in 1969. The type was first made in 1942 and continued to 1980, so it also was totally a posthumous production to honor Ataturk's memory. Again there are four smaller coins, from 25 to 250 Kurush, KM851, 53, 55, and 57.



Turkey 500 Piastres 1969, diameter 34mm
Image Courtesy of www.novamarketing.ch

In some years from 1943 to 1950 the head of İsmet İnönü replaced that of Atatürk on all denominations in both designs: KM850, 52, 54, 56 and 58 for the Standard Type and KM 875 through 879 for the Deluxe coins. The portrait of the Father of the Turks was then restored and continued until 1980 in all issues except the 100 Kurush Standard, which was made until 1981. All of these coins for both Atatürk and İnönü are called bullion pieces by KM and they appear together at the end of the Turkish section. However, the prices on some of these, in particular all of the İnönü coins, which are much scarcer, are not going to seem like bullion values to us.

The portraits of Atatürk and İnönü also appear on several different coins in silver and other metals. For İnönü, we have a 1 Lira 1940 and 1941, KM869, in silver. For Atatürk, KM records 50 and 100 Kurus (1 Lira), KM860, 865, and 866, in silver, as well as various other pieces in aluminum, copper-nickel-zinc, nickel-bronze and stainless steel. For very different portraits of Atatürk, we can note the 100,000 Lira, KM1078, the 3,000,000 Lira, KM1075 and two other pieces which illustrate Turkey's terrible inflation problems, the 4,000,000 Liras, KM1088 and 1108, both dated 1999. The fact that Atatürk still appears on coins designed sixty years after his passing is evidence of the veneration still felt for him in his country.

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The NI library catalog is available on-line at the
Numismatics International web site.

<http://www.numis.org>

New Issue
Another New Issue from The Cocos
Howard Ford NI #LM90



Actual size 27mm

Images courtesy of www.Downies.com, Australia

In addition to the series of base metal coinage from 2004 which we discussed earlier this year (April, p.273), the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Territory has a \$100 gold coin from 2003 which some of our members might find of interest. The obverse shows the same bent tree which we discussed before. The reverse side has a very attractive design of a sailing vessel, Charles Darwin's famous ship, *The Beagle*, under full sail.

This is a proof coin, with an announced mintage of only 200. The coin also exists in BU, with a supposed mintage of 300-400. The proofs appear with two different obverses: one has a three-word Malay legend under the tree; the other lacks the legend (illustrated is a specimen without the legend). The coins without the legend are much scarcer, selling in some places for significantly more than the others. The pieces without the legend of three native words, "*BUKAN WANG TUNAI*," are actually error coins because the legend is required to be on all issues from the Cocos. The issuing authorities were highly embarrassed by their mistake, and they quickly tried to recall the error coins. However, 27 specimens still remain unaccounted for. (<https://www.downies.com/australia/store/product.asp?id=1660>).

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Darlehnskassenschein
Edited and submitted by
Roger deWardt Lane NI #815

Artur Inanov of Riga, Latvia furnished most of the information on his web site.
<http://www.geocities.com/WallStreet/Floor/3952/>

The "Darlehnskassenschein" was first introduced in August 1914, during World War I. It was not an official German banknote, but it was used as a means of payment like a normal banknote. The denomination of these bills was usually small and handy.

The Darlehnskassenschein received its name from the institutions that issued these bills - the "Darlehnskassen" (loan societies). These bills were loan certificates of these societies.

The official currency, Reichsmark, was backed by the gold reserves of the German Central Bank (the Reichsbank) before WWI. With the start of the war the pledge to change any of the printed paper banknotes into gold was removed. The German government started to inject more money into the economy to finance the war effort. This caused a substantial inflation and the limited gold reserves soon were exhausted.

The need to raise more money for the war continued. In order to avoid a further devaluation of the Reichsmark the authorities decided to introduce a separate loan mechanism and created the *Darlehnskassen*. These were associated with the Reichsbank.

Loans were given in the form of *Darlehnskassenscheine* or treasury notes, which in turn were used to back the Reichsmark. The standardized certificates had a fixed rate to gold and were accepted by all state-owned institutions. This in fact gave them the necessary trust for people to use these bills like real money, so they were accepted as currency. The *Darlehnskassenscheine* were covered not by gold but by industrial and agricultural goods.

Especially the 1, 2 and 5 Mark *Darlehnskassenscheine* soon became very heavily used. They replaced the coins that were taken out of circulation by the Reichsbank or hoarded by institutions and people. The notes were also issued in denominations of ½ Mark, 20, 50, 100 and 1000 Marks.

The note illustrated was issued at the city of Kowno on April 4, 1918.

Kaunas (kou'näs), Pol. *Kowno*, Rus. *Kovno*, city of central Lithuania on the Neman River south of Riga. Founded in the 11th century, it was a medieval trading post and a Lithuanian stronghold against the Teutonic Knights. Russia acquired the city in the third partition of Poland (1795). Although strongly fortified by the Russians, it was captured (1915) by the Germans in World War I. From 1918 to 1940, Kaunas was the provisional capital of Lithuania — Vilnius (which Lithuania claimed as its rightful capital) being held by Poland until 1939. It is the second largest industrial centre and university town of Lithuania. Population: (1993 pop. 429,000),



50 Marks Treasury Note of the Eastern Bank for Commerce and Trade
Credit Bank East issued at Kowno – 173mm x 109mm
Black, green, lavender; red serial number D 683709. Catalog PR132.

Wehrmachts (Military) issues for the Russian campaign during 1916–1918 and during the First World War Latvian occupation by Germany 1918–1919. (Kowno issue, Lithuanian "Kaunas").

- PR127 1/2 Mark
- PR128 1 Mark
- PR129 2 Mark
- PR130 5 Mark
- PR131 20 Mark
- PR132 50 Mark
- PR133 100 Mark
- PR134 1000 Mark

The identifying numbers refer to Pick Regional.

The first phase of the occupation of Latvia by the German Army took place between March and September 1915. Yelgawa (German "Mitau") was taken on August 1st, 1915, but then the eastern front came to a 2 year standstill along a line just 30 km from Riga, the capital of Latvia, then stretching upstream along the Daugava (Russian "Dvina") river. This way Courland (Kurlandia) came into the hands of the Germans for four years.

The Germans organized a local government, but did not supply them with currency for circulation. The Russian currency was declared invalid. Although it appears that in 1915 the German Imperial currency was not officially legalized in the occupied Baltic countries, it stands to reason that great sums must have been brought into circulation by the army and its civilian personnel.

In 1916 the German "Ostbank für Handel und Gewerbe, Darlehnskasse Ost" (Eastern Bank for Commerce and Trade, Credit Bank East), issued Ruble/Kopeck banknotes, so called "Ost-Rubel". This new currency was intended for the entire eastern territory occupied by the German Army. The obverse is in German and the reverse in the three languages of Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian. They were issued in Posen, West Prussia (now in Poland). The following denominations were emitted: 20 and 50 Kopeken, 1, 3, 10, 25 and 100 Rubel. Also in 1916 the German Commander of the Occupation Army (Ob.-Ost) had minted 1, 2 and 3 Kopeck iron coins in two languages: German and Russian.

In 1918 the German *Ostbank für Handel und Gewerbe Darlehnskasse Ost* issued at Kowno (now Lithuanian Kaunas) a new currency as Mark/Pfennig banknotes ("Kassenschein") with the obverse in German, and the reverse in German, Latvian and Lithuanian. They were called "Ost-Mark". The following denominations were issued: 1/2, 1, 2, 5, 20, 50, 100 and 1000 Mark.

Die Einlösung der Darlehnskassenscheine der Darlehnskasse Ost in Reichsmark zum Nennwert ist vom Deutschen Reich gewährleistet translates to "The issue of the Darlehnskassenscheine of the Darlehnskasse East in German Marks have the nominal value for the German Reich."

During World War I, the German military forces occupied wide areas in central and eastern Europe. The Baltic states, as well as parts of north Poland and Byelorussia were subordinated to the Army Commander in Chief, East. The supply of currency for this area was furnished by the Eastern Bank for Commerce and Trade, Credit Bank East, based in Posen (Poznan) which issued Darlehnskassenscheine to ensure a money supply within the occupied areas. The first currency issued by the bank, in 1916 was denominated in Rubles. Starting from 1918 a new currency was issued at Kowno in German Marks.

The exchange rate between Rubles and Marks stood constantly in the ratio 2:1. After establishment of the Baltic republics in the year 1918, Estonia and Latvia created for themselves their own currencies, while Lithuania kept the notes of the Credit Bank East as legal tender until 1922.



50 Mark - with reverse in German, Latvian and Lithuanian – April 4, 1918
Black, lavender, green

(German) *Wer darlehnskassenscheine nachmacht oder verfälscht oder nachgemachte oder verfälschte sich verschafft und in verkehr bringt wird mit zuchthaus bis zu acht jahren bestraft* translates "Anyone who copies or counterfeits this note will be punished by up to eight years in the penitentiary."

This warning is repeated in Latvian and Lithuanian.

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FYI

Additional Information on the Origins of the Word "Russia"

Howard Ford NI #LM90

(See NI Bulletin October 2005 issue, page 204)

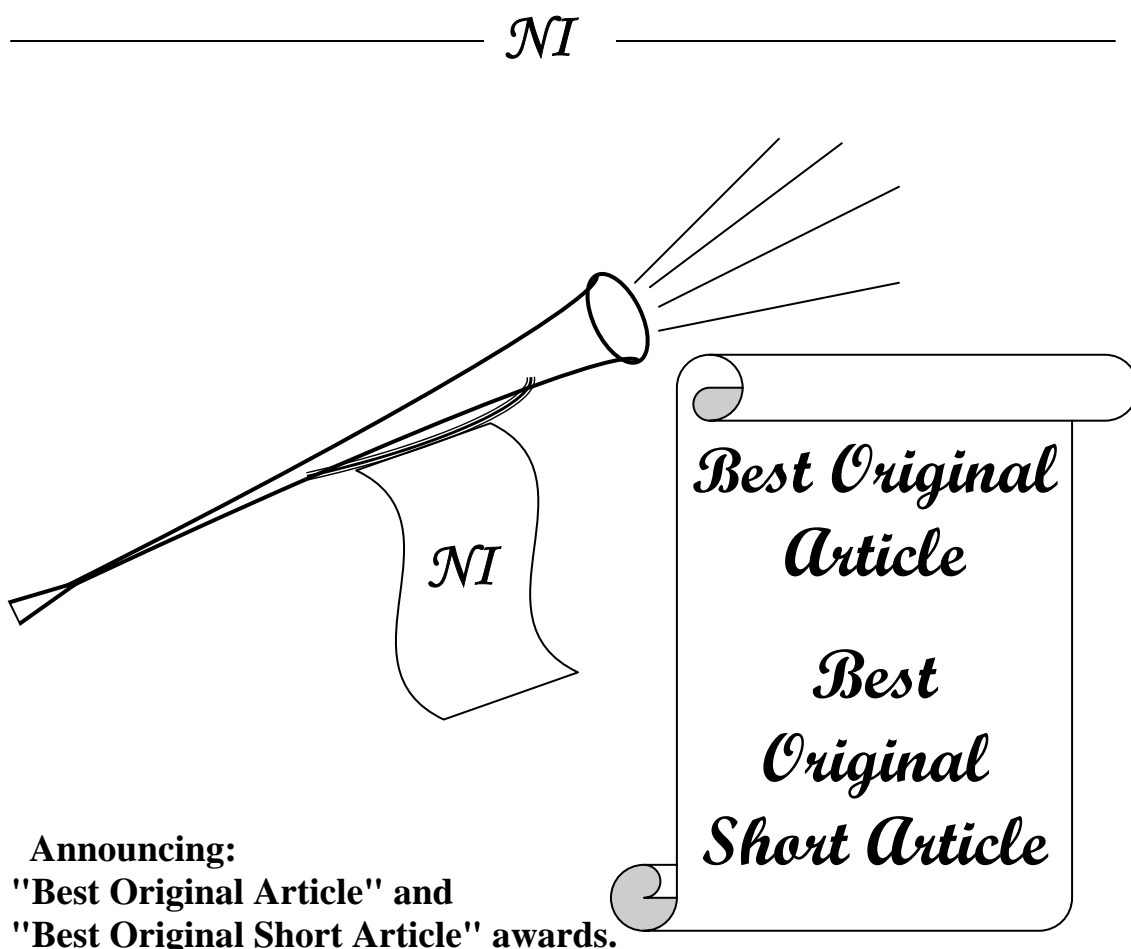
It is possible that the name of one particular Swedish tribe, called the *Ruotsi* by the Finns, led to the creation of the word "Rus." Another theory associates Rus with the word for red hair, *rusy*, and some scholars believe Scandinavians were referred to by Slavs as "red-haired." These examples and other pieces of evidence cause many to believe that the Scandinavians eventually came to dominate the whole area down to and even beyond Kiev, a territory which the older histories refer to many times as the "Kievan Rus."

For those who believe that Slavs, not Scandinavians, dominated the region, the word "rus" is found to be almost always associated with water: sometimes with one of a

pair of particular rivers near Kiev, either the Ros or the Rusna, sometimes with the word for a riverbed, *ruslo*, and so on. The word may have come to refer to the Slavs themselves, one possibility being that the word referred to "river people." Kiev is on the River Dnieper, the fourth longest river in Europe, which runs all the way from above Smolensk past Kiev and on to the Black Sea. The Slavs certainly could have been the peoples of the rivers.

At any rate from Kiev in the south and Novgorod further north on the Desna River (not the more historically famous Novgorod, which is located very far to the north, near the Gulf of Finland) the power shifted to Muscovy (Moscow) in the northeast just below the sources of the mighty Volga, the longest river in Europe. The early peoples in these areas, whether Slavs or Scandinavians, had to become river people in order to traverse the vast regions.

After the fifteenth century ruler of Moscow, Ivan III, had proclaimed himself ruler over the whole "Rus," the word proceeded to develop into "Russia." Duke Ivan was claiming an immense area, all the way to Kiev and other lands watered on its flow to the Black Sea by the Dnieper, the river which for part of its great length provides the boundary between Kiev and the rest of the Ukraine on one side and on the other side the country in which we still see "rus" as part of its name, Belarus.



Your Numismatics International board of governors has instituted two author awards beginning this year: "Best Original Article" and "Best Original Short Article." "Best Original Article" can be any length over 500 words and on any topic, provided it is published in the calendar year for the contest. This means you need to make your submission early enough to get published in the current year, else due to backlog it may not get published until the next year. For example, the December bulletin goes out to the printer the first week of November, so if not submitted by October it is hardly possible to be in the current year volume. The same is true for "Best Original Short Article," except the maximum length for this category is 500 words. The Bulletin editor is the sole judge of word count.

To be eligible the article must not be a reprint from our own NI Bulletin, but it may have been published elsewhere provided the submitter to the NI Bulletin is the author. All articles published are eligible whether the author is an NI member or not, provided the article is an original work of the author. Obviously we hope any author appreciated by NI would desire to join us. The editor has requested that for 2006 only, articles published in the September to December 2005 timeframe be eligible also, that is, from the beginning of his tenure.

After the end of the calendar year, the Bulletin editor will select a number of articles over 500 words and a number of short articles of 500 words or less. These will be submitted to the award committee which will consist of 3 to 5 persons assigned by the board of governors. The committee will review the articles and choose winners from the pool selected by the editor. The winner in each category will receive a certificate from the Board of Governors.

With the exception of the Bulletin editor and the committee judges, everyone in the world is eligible provided it is an original work of the author and it was published in the Bulletin during the specified year.



Member Notice

Viet Nam Wanted. 500 Dong 1989 KM-41 & 500 Dong 2000 KM-Unlisted gold coins. The latter coin was minted for the Olympics in Sydney by the Mint of Finland. I also need the 100 Dong 1997 KM-60 silver coin commemorating UNICEF. These coins are the last I need to photograph for my next catalog, which will describe all of the Viet Nam issues since 1975. If you have them or even know where they are located in a collection or dealer's stock, please contact me, Howard A. Daniel III, at HADANIEL3@MSN.COM or at P.O. Box 989, Deltaville, VA 23043-0989.

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